

Message Text

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13/50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OC-06 NSC-10 PRS-01 L-03 SPC-03

COME-00 DRC-01 /087 W

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O P 101820Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5716

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, DM, US

SUBJECT: BOHICON-PARAKOU MICROWAVE LOAN 625-H-001

REF: (A) COTONOU 1770; (B) MCNAMARA/MIN BEBADA

LETTER DATED 12/10/73.

1. AT MEETING THIS DATE WITH MINISTER AND DIRECTOR PTT, CHARGE AND REDSO REP HANDED OVER REPLY TO MIN BEBADA'S DECEMBER 5 LETTER.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS, FACT THAT WE ARE NOT NOW IN POSITION TO CONSIDER EXPANSION OF SCOPE OF PROJECT AS EARLIER AGREED TO BY AID AND MRGD AND THAT FUNDS UNDER LOAN ARE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER EXTENSION OF PROJECT FROM PARAKOU TO MALANVILLE WERE AGAIN EXPLAINED TO DAHOMEANS. THEY WERE ALSO REMINDED THAT CP'S UNDER SECTION 3.01 MUST BE MET BY DECEMBER 12 IF PROJECT IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR LOAN AGREEMENT.

3. MINISTER BEBADA REITERATED COMMENTS MADE IN HIS LETTER PER REF (A) AND REQUESTS AID CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT ALLOWING FOR EXTENSION TO MALANVILLE. HE EXPLAINED THAT MRGD
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MUST CONSIDER EXTENDING PROJECT FROM PARAKOU TO MALANVILLE. HE

BELIEVES THAT COST OF EXTENSION OF PROJECT TO MALANVILLE SHOULD NOT BE MUCH LARGER THAN PRESENT LOAN, BASED THIS ON HIS OWN TECHNICIANS ESTIMATES AND ON ITU ESTIMATES. HE BELIEVES IF AID WILLING GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION REQUEST, WAYS TO ECONOMIZE ON PROJECT AND AVOID DUPLICATION IN CERTAIN AREAS OF PROJECT COULD BE FOUND.

4. MAIN JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENTION TO MALANVILLE BASED ON POLITICAL IMPERATIVE SERVE WHOLE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY DISADVANTAGED NORTH. SAID ORIGINAL LOAN ENTERED INTO BY "POLITICIANS" OF FORMER REGIME WITHOUT ADVICE THEIR TECHNICIANS. WHEN REMINDED OF PERIOD WHICH HAS PASSED SINCE SIGNATURE OF LOAN, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS, BUT SAID MRGD FIRM IN ITS RESOLVE EXTEND LINE TO NORTHERN BORDER AND DOES NOT WISH SPEND LOAN ON INTERMEDIATE GOAL. SAID OBJECT IS TO MAKE BEST USE POSSIBLE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.

5. CHARGE AND REDSO REP AGREED PUT THIS ELEVENTH HOUR PLEA TO AID AUTHORITIES. MINISTER PROMISED TAKE WHATEVER STEPS REQUIRED LAUNCH PROJECT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IF AMENDMENT GRANTED. UNDERSTAND THAT, DUE LONG DELAYS CAUSED BY DAHOMEAN INACTION, WE ARE NOW FACING CANCELLATION OF LOAN. HOWEVER, DO BELIEVE MINISTER IS SINCERE IN WANTING TO DO BEST THING FOR HIS COUNTRY. HE HAS ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE FEW MONTHS, AND ONLY NOW BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH COMPLICATED RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS MINISTRY. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, RECOMMEND SYMPATHETIC RECONSIDERATION OF PROJECT IN ACCORD WITH MINISTER'S REQUEST.
MCNAMARA

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